

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, deleted and/or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 2-29 remain pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 18-29 have been allowed in the application, as indicated within the section number "5" on page 5 of the Office Action. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 4, 7-9, 10 (dep. on 7 or 8) and 11-17 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the section number "4" on page 5 of the Office Action, and at least appropriate base ones of such claims have been so rewritten. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS DUE TO CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY

Unrelated to any prior art rejections (e.g., merely to clarify and/or refocus Applicant's claims, and to move the present application to allowance), Claims 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 have had dependencies thereof amended to wholly depend from ones of the above-discussed allowable claims. Owing to dependency from allowable claims, such claims should likewise be allowable over the prior art of record, and any prior art rejections regarding such claims have become obsolete at this time. Accordingly, reconsideration and express written allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

All 35 USC §103 rejections based on Date *et al.* (US 6,229,586 B1) and Sasaki *et al.* (US 6,219,120 B1)) are respectfully traversed. All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated herein by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

However, Claim 1 now has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter, and Claims 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 now wholly depend from ones of the above-discussed allowable claims, and accordingly, the rejections have been rendered obsolete at this time. Therefore, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time, and instead, further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s), claims and/or reference are left for the future if/when appropriate..

As a result of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejections are respectfully requested.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all prior art rejected claims have now been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and/or rewritten to depend from allowed claims, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to

dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Submitted concurrently herewith is a Petition for an appropriate extension of the period for response set by the 2 June 2003 Office Action. To whatever other extent is actually necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. A Form PTO-2038 authorizing Petition and additional claims fees also is filed concurrently herewith. Please charge any shortage in fees required for entry of this paper to ATSK Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 500.37406X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENTS:

Petition for Extension of Time
Form PTO-2038 (Fee Codes 1201/1252)